

## COMING OF AGE

1. Right around the time she turns fourteen, Hillary begins to see her neighbor, who is also fourteen, not just as someone to chase in the streets and make fun of, but someone that she thinks is cute. One day, they are both sitting on her front stoop, watching the cars pass by. Without even really knowing what she is doing, she leans over and kisses him.

Has Hillary “come of age”?

Why or why not?

Define coming of age based on your explanation above. *“Coming of age means...”*

2. A boy that Stephanie knows from class says hi to Stephanie as she is heading to class. The bell rings, and the boy tells Stephanie that she is pretty. A teacher passes by, saying, “Get to class.” Without really noticing the teacher, the boy grabs Stephanie’s breast. Stephanie says, “Stop it!” and slaps his hand away, but the boy grabs at Stephanie again. “Come on,” he says. The teacher sees this and angrily calls out to the boy, “Hey – she said ‘stop it.’ Turn around and give me your I.D.” The boy takes off up the stairs. The teacher turns to Stephanie, who is beginning to cry. “Tell me his name and I will find him,” the teacher says. Stephanie demurs, saying that “He does that to all the girls” and “He can’t help himself.” She refuses to give his name to the teacher.

Has Stephanie “come of age”?

Why or why not?

Define coming of age based on your explanation above. *“Coming of age means...”*

Martin is a freshman at Curie. Whenever goes to the B building for gym, a group of older kids throw pennies him. At least once or twice a week, he encounters these kids. He has tried to avoid them; he is a peaceful kid. When he tells his father about it, his father tells him to be a man and do something about it. He goes so far as to give his son a combination lock, telling him that the next time someone throws a penny at him, Martin should hit that kid in the head. Then his father tells him he doesn't want to hear from him until he's stepped up and been a man. The freshman follows his father's advice and is suspended.

Has Martin "come of age"?

Why or why not?

Define coming of age based on your explanation above. *"Coming of age means..."*

Lee has lived with his grandmother since he was seven and his mother was unable to care for him. Although his mother lives in a neighboring state, she has never come to visit Lee. Every year at New Year's and on his birthday, his mother calls Lee, and every year she tells Lee that she plans to come to visit in the next month or two. Every year, Lee believes his mother. On his sixteenth birthday, Lee gets his regular call from his mother, who again tells him that she will be coming to visit soon. Lee starts shaking his head as his mother talks, and then begins to scream at her on the phone, yelling and crying, telling his mother he doesn't believe her anymore, and that he hates her. Lee throws the phone across the room and breaks it. He never speaks to his mother again.

Has Lee "come of age"?

Why or why not?

Define coming of age based on your explanation above. *"Coming of age means..."*

